

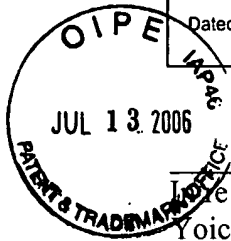
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below..

Dated: July 6, 2006

Signature: Judy Calem

(Judy Calem)

Docket No.: 322732000401  
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Patent Application of:  
Yoichi TAKAHAMA et al.

Application No.: 10/028,172

Confirmation No.: 2837

Filed: December 21, 2001

Art Unit: 1648

For: DIAGNOSTIC REAGENT FOR HEPATITIS C  
VIRUS INFECTION

Examiner: Bao Qun Li, M.D.

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the non-final Office Action on the merits mailed February 10, 2006 ("the OA"), Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and consideration of the remarks set forth herein. A response to the Office Action is initially due May 10, 2006. Applicants herein submit a petition for a two month extension of time to July 10, 2006, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, with the appropriate fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

The following documents are enclosed herewith:

- Transmittal letter; Fee Transmittal; Petition for 2 Month Extension, and Postcard;
- Terminal Disclaimer.

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